

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT, EEC, XG

SUBJECT: NEW SOVIET MOVES TOWARD EUROPEAN TRADE UNION UNITY

REF: STATE 220052, ROME A-636, ROME 10757

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION WFTU CONGRESS THE
CGIL EXPECTED TO CHANGE ITS STATUS BY END OF 1973 TO "ASSOCIATE"
MEMBER WFTU WITH CONSULTATIVE VOTE ONLY. ACCORDING CGIL CHANGE IS
SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE CGIL WILL BE FREE FROM WFTU IDEOLOGICAL PRE-
DISPOSITION. SHOULD BE NOTED THAT CGIL SEC GEN LAMA NOT FREE SINCE
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HE ELECTED TO WFTU POLITICAL BUREAU. WFTU ACTION EXPECTED

ACCELERATE SOMEWHAT CGIL CAMPAIGN FOR ENTRY INTO ETUC. EFFECT ON TRADE UNION UNITY ITALY LESS CLEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A SENSE CGIL INITIATIVE TO GAIN "ASSOCIATE" STATUS IN COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) OPENS NEW ACT IN CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL LABOR DRAMA. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT AS SCENES OF ACT UNFOLD. IN REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS (A) AND (B) OF DEPARTMENT REFTEL, EMBASSY NOTES THAT FORMAL WFTU ACTION AT VARNA CONSISTED OF A PROPOSAL TO INSTITUTE NEW FORM OF MEMBERSHIP OTHER THAN NORMAL AFFILIATION, NAMELY, "ASSOCIATE" STATUS. CHAPTER VI NO 136 OF THE WFTU STATEMENT OF ORIENTATION READS AS FOLLOWS (UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION): "WANTING TO UTILIZE TO THE MAXIMUM NEW UNITARY POSSIBILITIES, THE VIII WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS FAVORS A KIND OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS IN ADDITION TO A 'AFFILIATED MEMBER,' NAMELY, THAT OF 'ASSOCIATE MEMBER.' THE VIII CONGRESS INSTRUCTS THE NEXT SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL TO TAKE NECESSARY DECISIONS DEFINING RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF 'ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.'"

3. CGIL STATUS, THEREFORE, DID NOT CHANGE AT VARNA. STEPS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN CGIL "ASSOCIATES" STATUS WILL TAKE PLACE OVER NEXT TWO MONTHS (CGIL HOPES TO COMPLETE ACTION BEFORE JANUARY 1974 EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING GENEVA). THESE STEPS ARE: (A) CGIL GENERAL COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS OF ITS JULY CONGRESS AT BARI, WILL REQUEST "ASSOCIATE" STATUS IN WFTU WITH NON-BINDING CONSULTATIVE VOTE ONLY. (B) WFTU GENERAL COUNCIL WILL THEN MEET AND APPROVE SUCH STATUS AND VOTING ARRANGEMENT, THUS OFFICIALLY CHANGING WFTU STATUTES AND GRANTING CGIL "ASSOCIATE" MEMBERSHIP. THERE SHOULD BE NO HITCHES IN THE PROCEEDINGS; CGIL SECGEN LAMA HAS SAID, "THE PROBLEM OF WFTU ACCEPTANCE DOES NOT EXIST. IF WE ARE DENIED CONSULTATIVE VOTE, THE CGIL WILL JUST NOT VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS." CGIL CONTENDS THAT "ASSOCIATE" STATUS FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGES A MEMBER'S OBLIGATION TO THE WFTU BECAUSE AN "ASSOCIATE" WILL BE (IN THE WORDS OF OFFICIAL CGIL COMMUNIQUE) "WITHOUT THE OBLIGATIONS OF AN 'AFFILIATED' MEMBER AND THEREFORE NOT A PART OF ANY POSITION WHICH IS PREJUDGED OR CHARACTERIZED BY IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS."

4. CGIL INITIATIVE CLEARLY STAGED FOR EUROPEAN EFFECT AND POSSIBLE INTERNAL PROPAGANDA VALUE. HOWEVER, FACT THAT LAMA CONFIDENTIAL

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ELECTED TO WFTU POLITICAL BUREAU MEANS CGIL SECGEN IS BOUND BY WFTU POLICY EVEN IF CGIL SUPPOSEDLY NOT BOUND (MIGHT LAMA RESIGN POST WHEN ASSOCIATES STATUS ACQUIRED?). ALSO SOCIALISTS (DIDO) FOR FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS ARE ON WFTU GENERAL COUNCIL, INDICATING CONTINUING CLOSE CGIL/WFTU TIES. CISL AND UIL LEADERS CITE THIS AS EVIDENCE TRANSPARENCY CGIL TACTIC AND MOST PREDICT MINIMAL EFFECT ON TRADE UNION UNITY, ITALY (SEE A-636). CGIL SECRETARY DIDO DISAGREES, POINTING OUT THAT CGIL ACTION WAS CLEAR AFFIRMATION CGIL AUTONOMY

AND WAS IN KEEPING WITH 1971 OSTIA DECLARATION ON TRADE UNION UNITY. DIDO VIEW INTERESTINGLY PICKED UP BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DAILY IL OPOLO WHICH WRITES THAT "REGARDLESS OF WHY IT WAS DONE ANY LOOSENING OF FORMAL CGIL TIES WITH NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST PARTY STRUCTURE IS A FACT IN ITSELF POSITIVE... AND AIDS THE PROCESS TOWARD FULL UNION AUTONOMY." WHETHER PCI IN FACT TIGHTENING CONTROL OVER CGIL IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE BUT IT IS AT LEAST CERTAIN THAT, FAR FROM THERE BEING CGIL NATIONAL POLICIES DIVERGING FROM PCI, THE TWO POLICIES ARE AT PRESENT INDISTINGUISHABLE. THIS IS AT TIMES PAINFUL FOR CGIL LEADERSHIP WHEN FACING DISSATISFIED WORKERS. SIGNS OF CGIL AUTONOMY CITED BY DIDO HARD TO FIND AND DEMAND FURTHER STUDY. FULL CGIL AUTONOMY PROMISED AT JULY BARI CONGRESS REMAINS UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

5. IN FINAL ANALYSIS CGIL INITIATIVE SHOULD HAVE MORE MEASURABLE AND IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON EUROPEAN LABOR SCENE THAN IN ITALY SINCE VARNA ACTION DIRECTLY LINKED TO CGIL REQUEST FOR PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC). ACCORDING TO CISL, SCENARIO NOW CALLS FOR NOVEMBER 20 MEETING IN LONDON OF ETUC SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CGIL. THIS COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF VIC FEATHER, ETUC GENSEC RASSCHAERT, CISL SEC GEN STOR JTI AND UIL SEC GEN VANNI, WILL PROBABLY CONSULT WITH LAMA AND THEN RECOMMEND ACTION TO ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS NOVEMBER 24 MEETING. ADMISSION OF CGIL TO ETUC SOONER OR LATER NOW ACCEPTED AS FOREGONE CONCLUSION BY CISL AND UIL LEADERS.

6. EMBASSY SEARCHING FOR MORE COMPLETE TEXTS WFTU DELIBERATIONS AND WILL POUCH WHEN AVAILABLE. LAMA PRESS CONFERENCE IN COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY L'UNITA BEING TRANSLATED AND WILL BE POUCHED. VOLPE

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